

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1809

DIA

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9266

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALISTS SAY NO TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH DC NOW

REF: ROME 9173

1. SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) DIRECTORATE MEETING, WHICH CONTINUES

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JUNE 27, IS RUNNING TRUE TO ITS ADVANCE BILLING (REFTEL).

TO DC'S OFFER TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW PROGRAM LEADING TO A RECONSTITUTION OF THE FOUR PARTY CENTER-LEFT, DE MARTINO SAID, "THE ANSWER OF OUR PARTY CAN ONLY BE NEGATIVE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE NEGATIVE UNTIL THE DC HAS UNDERTAKEN A COMPLETE REVISION OF ITS POLICY SUCH AS TO PERMIT THE PSI TO EXAMINE (ANEW) THE PROBLEM OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES." MEANWHILE, THE SOCIALISTS WILL REFRAIN FROM OPENING A GOVERNMENT CRISIS, BUT WILL CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE MORO GOVERNMENT ON A "CASE BY CASE" BASIS ONLY. ON THESE TWO POSITIONS THERE SEEMS TO BE VIRTUAL UNANIMITY IN THE PARTY.

2. DE MARTINO ATTACKED DC SECRETARY FANFANI FOR HAVING REJECTED THE SOCIALIST PROPOSAL WHICH FANFANI "INSISTS ON DEFINING AS A PREFERENTIAL RELATIONSHIP IMPLYING THE EXCLUSION OF THE OTHER PARTIES," WHILE IT IS ABOVE ALL AIMED AT "DETERMINING PROFOUND POLITICAL CHANGES, IN THE FIRST PLACE WITHIN THE DC."

3. THOUGH EXPRESSING FATALISTIC DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE PSI DID NOT EMERGE FROM THE ELECTIONS AS THE MAJOR PROTAGONIST OF THE LEFT, DE MARTINO HIGHLIGHTED THE PSI'S "GREATER INFLUENCE," ITS "INDISPENSABILITY FOR ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION" AND "ITS DETERMINING ROLE FOR ANY GREAT NATIONAL DECISION."

4. DIFFERENCES HAVE EMERGED OVER THE ATTITUDE TO BE ADOPTED OFFICIALLY REGARDING THE FORMATION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS, BUT THE MAIN ISSUE SEEMS TO BE ONLY BETWEEN DECLARING COMPLETE FREEDOM OF ACTION OR INSISTING ON ADMINISTRATIONS WITH THE COMMUNISTS WHERE POSSIBLE. DE MARTINO HIMSELF FLOATED, BUT DID NOT PUSH, THE PROPOSAL TO WORK FOR THE FORMATION OF DC-PSI-PCI LOCAL AGREEMENTS.

5. CONTRIBUTING TO A SENSE OF COMPLACENT PROCRASTINATION WHICH SEEMED TO PREVAIL AT THE MEETING IS THE CONTINUED TURMOIL AND CONFUSION WHICH REIGNS IN THE DC. PRESSURES WITHIN THE DC TO "DO SOMETHING" STILL BUILDING (REFTEL). ALSO, TWO DC MINISTERS (MARCORA AND BISAGLIA) ARE REPORTEDLY PERSISTING IN THREATS TO RESIGN IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE. THEIR RESIGNATIONS COULD CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TO FALL. VOLPE
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